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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BENTIVOLIO).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 20, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable KERRY L. BENTIVOLIO to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2014, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

ESTABLISHING COHERENT FOREIGN POLICY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HOLDING) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, suffice it to say, there is no shortage of challenges across the globe, all of which test our Nation's foreign policy and resolve and pose a threat to our national security.

Lately, the world's attention has been focused on a myriad of issues that rightly deserve our attention: Russia's blatant violation of Ukraine's sov-

ereignty, their continued meddling in the internal politics of our Eastern European allies, China's continued rhetoric and aggression in the East and South China Seas, the struggle for democracy in Venezuela, and the tragic events that continue to unfold in Nigeria and Syria, among other things.

Establishing a coherent foreign policy and ensuring our national security require the United States to maintain a fixed leadership role in all of these challenges that we face.

Mr. Speaker, while these and a host of other pressing issues test the United States and our friends around the globe, I am concerned that we have let what I consider to be the greatest threat to our national security fall out of the center of the discussion. That, of course, Mr. Speaker, is the ongoing nuclear negotiations with Iran.

The success or failure of these talks will undoubtedly have a far-reaching impact on the safety and security of the Middle East and the international effort to prevent further nuclear proliferation. The ramifications can never be overstated.

Mr. Speaker, I am not suggesting that our efforts and those of our international partners—for example, to strengthen our alliances in the Baltics or to bring Boko Haram to justice—should cease. What I am suggesting is that we must always continue to stand strongly, shoulder to shoulder, with our allies to combat tyranny and terrorism. Those missions will never cease.

I firmly believe that Congress needs to, right now, continue the discussion and increase our oversight of the dealings with the regime in Tehran, especially as the July 20 deadline rapidly approaches.

I know that Chairman ROYCE of the House Foreign Affairs Committee has always made these negotiations and the precise details regarding inspection and verification a priority, and I cer-

tainly welcome his commitment to increasing the committee's efforts to hold the administration accountable as they try and reach a final deal.

What I fear is that the administration might accept and, worse, push for a final deal filled with concessions that endanger our national security just for the sake of getting a deal done.

What might even be worse, Mr. Speaker, would be an extension of the talks that fail to do anything of real consequence to stop Iran's march to a bomb. Time has shown us, again and again, Tehran's frequent use of manipulative negotiation tactics and their history of deceit when it comes to concealing their nuclear program.

Every day that passes during which concrete steps aren't put into place to prevent and to verify that Iran isn't maneuvering for the bomb is another day in which our security and the security of our allies is put in jeopardy.

Mr. Speaker, we all know that the world is a complex place. There will always be a new and emerging crisis right around the corner that threatens the delicate balance of global stability, but if we and our international partners fail at the weighty task before us of ensuring Iran never has the breakout capacity to get the bomb in these negotiations, those emerging crises will always take the backseat to a threat created by a nuclear-armed Iran.

CONGRATULATING WILLIAM EARL "BILL" MYERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor William Earl "Bill" Myers who, today, will receive the 2014 Heritage Award from the North Carolina Arts Council. Bill Myers has dedicated his life to education and the arts.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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